Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Issued June 1, 1909.

United States Department of Agriculture,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—Circular No. 29.

TEST OF ROBERTS'S SO-CALLED ANTI-ABORTION SERUM.

The act of Congress making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, provides as follows:

> That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to purchase in the open market samples of all tuberculin, serums, antitoxins, or analogous products, of foreign or domestic manufacture, which are sold in the United States for the detection, prevention, treatment, or cure of diseases of domestic animals, to test the same and to publish the results of said tests in such manner as he may deem best * * *.

For some time past there have appeared in certain agricultural and live-stock journals advertisements of "the Roberts serum treatment" for abortion in cows, by the Dr. David Roberts Veterinary Company, Waukesha, Wis. In the advertising matter sent out by that company there is an order sheet giving a list of "remedies," one of which is "Anti-Abortion Serum, for preventing and curing abortion in cows."

In accordance with the provision of law above quoted, the Department recently examined a sample of the preparation referred to. Analysis by the Bureau of Animal Industry shows that the preparation is not a serum and contains no serum. The sample contained approximately 98 per cent of water, the remainder consisting of phenols (carbolic acid), oil of cloves, and a very small proportion of what appeared to be some form of vegetable matter.

O